

City of Milpitas
Unapproved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
February 28, 2005

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Telecommunications Commission Chair Albert Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Albert Alcorn, N. Gupta,
G. Ali-Santosa, P. Peterson, V. Mathur, W. Lam

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent: D. Gupta, I. Munir, A. Ettinger

City Council: A. Gomez

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

No announcements were made for the record.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda.

M/S N. Gupta / V. Mathur Ayes: 6

V. Approval of the Minutes
January 24, 2005

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta / P. Peterson Ayes: 6

VI. Citizen's Forum

No comments made for the record.

VII. Continued-New Business:

1. Telecom Work Session.

Chair Alcorn and staff reported on the upcoming work session. The work session will focus on reviewing the current telecommunications master plan, evaluating the commission's progress and develop a final presentation to the city council.

The Commission hopes to present its report at the second council meeting on April 19, 2005. The status report on cable TV franchise, use of cable 15, I-net over power lines are just a few items for discussion that can be reported to the city council.

Staff will notify as normally for public notice board and send agendas for the Saturday, March 12 work session to all the Commissioners.

Motion to note receipt and file.

2. Status Report of Comcast Cable Franchise

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, reported that significant progress had been made involving the cable television franchise with Comcast. Staff presented a draft memorandum to be submitted to city council, which covered the details of the renewal of the cable television franchise with Comcast. Eddie Garcia representing Comcast was also present to answer any question from the Commission.

The draft cable franchise review involved the following items. Customer Service Provisions, Cable TV Channel Line Up, Service Outages, Compliance to State and Local Safety Codes, Additional PEG Channels, Local Public Access Capability, Cultural Programming and Emergency Broadcast Capability.

The Commissioners asked of the foreign language television programming. How are the programs selected for digital cable subscribers as well as requesting other foreign language programming to meet demographics in the Milpitas community. Staff noted that Comcast had provided a list of updated foreign language channels being offered to subscribers and that list would be forwarded to the Commission. Mr. Garcia noted that Comcast surveys its subscribers to gather information on what types of programming are being requested. Efforts are then made to meet the needs of its subscribers.

The next steps will involve the following. Review of the final franchise document; Report of Compliance and Franchise Terms; Draft agreement with the Milpitas Unified School District and final presentation of the City Council and Milpitas School District Board Members and concluding with a formal cable franchise adoption.

Staff noted that the term of the cable television franchise would be for 15 years. The previous cable franchise was for 20 years. The cable franchise provides the City ability to review or amend the franchise as needed during the life of the agreement. The Commission asked whether provisions were made in the event the cable franchise holder changes ownership. Staff noted that franchise assumption agreement language is included as provisions in the event of a change in ownership. In the event of an ownership change the new owner would assume the existing franchise agreement.

The Commission asked of the PEG grant funds to support the development of the community access studio. Staff reported that the \$245,000 would aid in the development, construction and implementation of the

PEG studio. The five-year \$50,000 annual grant would support the operation of the studio.

Chair Alcorn added that it Commission could be instrumental in assisting in the initial operation of the studio and possibly conduct live meetings from that location. Staff added that it hopes that the community uses the studio to create live programming that would add to the expansion of a third cable channel. The future addition of a third cable channel will be dependent on the number of original programming hours produced over a eight our programming day over a period of six weeks.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the terms of the PEG grant be worded terms of five year \$50,000 annually rather than five years concluding in 2009. Staff noted that once the school district receives the funds it would have the flexibility to manage the usage of those funds.

Mr. Garcia added that the negotiating were tough but fair. The Milpitas community will benefit from the new cable franchise agreement. Mr. Garcia also added that Comcast is committed to providing quality programming to it subscribers and has a long track record of not selling off properties. Rather it added properties and is committed to working to expand its cable services.

Finally, a great deal of thanks to Staff and Commissioners Dinesh Gupta and Paul Peterson in thoroughly working through the cable franchise agreement. Mr. Garcia added that partnership with the City and school district could only add to the quality of programming being provided to the Milpitas community.

Commission expressed their gratitude to Mr. Garcia, staff the Commission representatives in working through the negotiations and looks forward to the final cable franchise agreement.

Mr. Marion requested the Commission to approve the draft report and request submitting to the City Council for review. Staff would add it to a their weekly council report

Motion to approve the draft report and forward to city council.

M/S V. Mathur / P. Peterson Ayes: 6

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta/G. Ali-Santosa Ayes: 6

3. January '05 I.S. Month Report.

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, reported on the highlights of the Information Services Department.

Mr. Marion reported on the current layout of the city's 802.11b wireless data network for public safety. The coverage includes over 40 antennas in use throughout the Milpitas community. The service provides secured wireless data access for police and fire mobile units throughout various section of the city. The wireless network accesses the city's data system via mobile computers situated in numerous police and fire vehicles.

On another matter, staff reported on the successful integration of the computer aided dispatch system for fire mobile. Information services staff started initial training of fire personnel on the use of the wireless fire mobile dispatch system. The CIO provided a real-time demonstration of the fire mobile units actively moving through the Milpitas community. Staff noted that the level of detail on the fire maps were created by the city's GIS division per specifications from the fire department. Staff also noted the same level of detail was also created for the police mobile system police officer specific information.

The Commission asked if the fire department had the ability to travel out of the area and still be observed on the GIS database. Staff noted that once the fire apparatus leaves the City's borders the level of detail the maps are minimized. However, the general location can be noted on a digital map for Alameda and Santa Clara County. Mr. Marion added that the Milpitas GIS database maps provides very detailed information for police and fire personnel while in the field given them real-time data.

Chair Alcorn asked about the videoconference that staff attended. Staff noted that it wasn't a conference but a videoconference that the City's human resources department sponsored. The conference was held in the city council chambers and was attended by south bay members.

Motion to note receipt and file the presentation.

M/S V. Mathur/N. Gupta Ayes: 6

4. Round Table Discussion

Chair Alcorn mentioned an outdoor activity called Geocaching he saw on channel 4's Bay Area Backroads. The activity involves use of personal global positioning devices and the finding of outdoor locations and hidden caches. GPS users can then use location coordinates to find the hidden caches typically filled with small trinkets.

Staff reported that the current appointments and reappointments to the Telecom Commission are awaiting final approval from the City Council. Chair Alcorn noted that mayor Esteves has selected two

alternates serve on the Commission once the appointments have been approved.

Commissioner Alisantosa asked of possible wireless providers locating antennas in Milpitas. Staff noted that there are several communications antennas being planned for installation in Milpitas. Staff is waiting for additional information from the City 's planning department staff.

Staff reported on a Milpitas cable subscriber complaint involving a digital converter box for high definition television (HDTV) viewing and card compatibility issues with recently released consumer HDTV monitors. The subscriber encountered several scheduling conflicts and missed appointments to install a digital converter card. Eventually, Comcast personnel found the correct digital card and were successful to start the service.

Chair Alcorn asked if staff was able to provide a comparison of various HDTV digital cards and manufacturers. Staff noted that it would be best to have Comcast address the compatibility matters at a future Commission meeting.

On another matter of technology, Chair Alcorn noted that very soon consumers would be able to inter-network their homes at speeds of 10 gigabytes per second.

Staff reminded the Commission of the Saturday, March 12 morning work session to be held in the first floor Commission conference room at City Hall.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

The Commission adjourned the meeting to a work session on Saturday, March 12, 2005.

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